

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 CU-04 OMB-01 /086 W

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R 091429Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1702

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS UNCHANGED

REF: BONN 14852

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FRG DECREASED SLIGHTLY DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 4.1 PERCENT REMAINED UNCHANGED. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, UNEMPLOYMENT ACTUALLY INCREASED SLIGHTLY FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH.)FOR THE GOVERNMENT, THIS SITUATION REMAINS DISAPPOINTING AND IT DID NOT REACT WITH A PUBLIC STATEMENT. HOWEVER, SPOKESMEN FOR THE COALITION PARTIES SPD AND FDP REAFFIRMED
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THEIR BELIEF THAT THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS STILL PRO-

GRESSING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION PARTIES COMMENTED THAT THE NEW FIGURES SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ROSY ECONOMIC FORECASTS WERE WRONG AND STRESSED INCREASING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE DECLINE IN JOB OPENINGS. THUS THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM WILL REMAIN ONE OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES WHICH THE OPPOSITION WILL ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE UPON DURING THE NEXT WEEKS BEFORE THE OCTOBER 3 FEDERAL ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE END OF AUGUST, THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REPORTED A TOTAL OF 939,500 PERSONS OUT OF WORK OR 4.1 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1973, THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WOMEN OUTNUMBERED THOSE OF MEN. HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON SHORT TIME CONTINUED TO DECLINE BY ANOTHER 17,200 TO REACH A LEVEL OF 65,600, WHICH REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIAL DECLINE FROM THE LEVEL OF 541,400 A YEAR AGO.

3. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, JOSEF STINGL, COMMENTED THAT THE LABOR MARKET DEVELOPMENT STILL DOES NOT SHOW ANY FUTURE TREND. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. NEW SCHOOL GRADUATES UNDER 20 YEARS OF AGE INCREASED YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT BY 8,400 OR 9.7 PERCENT TO A TOTAL OF 95,200 DURING AUGUST. THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR YOUTH IS NOW 4.3 PERCENT AS COMPARED WITH 3.9 PERCENT IN AUGUST 1975.

4. AMONG FOREIGN WORKERS, 77,300 WERE UNEMPLOYED, A RATE OF 3.6 PERCENT. ALTHOUGH THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINED THE SAME AS IN JULY, THERE WAS A SLIGHT DECLINE OF 1,900 DURING AUGUST.

5. ON A REGIONAL BASIS, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE VARIED FROM 3.0 PERCENT IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG TO 4.7

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PERCENT IN LOWER SAXONY-BREMEN, RHINELAND-PALATINATE-
SAARLAND, AND NORTH BAVARIA.

6. THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB VACANCIES (UNAD-
JUSTED) DECLINED 12,400 OR 4.5 PERCENT TO 263,800.
ALTHOUGH THE DECLINE IN AUGUST THIS YEAR WAS MORE
PRONOUNCED THAN IN AUGUST 1975, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF
JOB VACANCIES WAS STILL 11,300 OR 4.5 PERCENT
HIGHER THAN ONE YEAR EARLIER.

7. ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, UNEMPLOYMENT STILL
SHOWS AN UPWARD TREND FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE MONTH,
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WHILE THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED JOB VACANCIES CON-
TINUED TO DECLINE, ALSO FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE
MONTH.

8. REACTION HAS BEEN MIXED AS USUAL. THE OPPOSITION
CANDIDATE FOR CHANCELLOR, HELMUT KOHL (CDU), SAID THAT
THE NEW STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OPTI-
MISTIC FORECASTS WERE WRONG. INCREASING YOUTH UNEM-
PLOYMENT AND THE DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF JOB OPENINGS-
HE SAID, REMAIN SERIOUS PROBLEMS AND SHOW A LACK OF
EMPLOYER CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE. THE FDP BUNDESTAG

FACTION SPOKESMAN, WERNER MERTES, COMMENTED THAT THE DECLINE IN SHORT TIME WORKERS REFLECTS THE BEGINNING REVIVAL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING FALL. THE STEADY DECLINE OF WORKERS ON SHORT TIME SHOWED THAT THIS MAJOR PROBLEM HAS BEEN LARGELY RESOLVED. SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY EUGEN GLOMBIG ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE REDUCTION IN SHORT TIME WORKERS. HE REFERRED TO RECENT INVESTIGATIONS BY CHAMBERS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE SHOWING THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF FIRMS CLOSING FOR SUMMER VACATION EXPLAINED THE LACK OF NEW HIRINGS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN15116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760341-0617
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760979/aaaacpmg.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BONN 14852
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT RATE REMAINS UNCHANGED
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006